


Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Poetry

Below is Jennifer Dignan's poem "Gratitude." Read the poem a few times. Then answer the questions on the next page. This activity is meant to be completed with a partner, in groups, or as a class.

Gratitude by Jennifer Dignan



Go to
Scope Online
to hear this
poem read
aloud.

- 1 For this brand-new pair of purple socks
so thick, so warm, so soft
and also that my family could afford these socks
and also that I have plenty of other socks
- 5 and also that my feet, inside these socks
carried me through my day
down the hallways of my school
across the cafeteria to my friends
up the stairs to my violin lesson
- 10 and also that my feet will carry me home
where it's warm and safe and dry
where there is plenty to eat
where my parents will hug me
and my dog will spin in circles of dizzy joy
- 15 where, when darkness falls and all goes quiet
I will climb into bed
after pulling off
these wonderful socks

Directions: Work with your partner or group to answer the following questions. Some ask you to use colored pencils to mark the poem on page 1 of this activity. There are no right or wrong answers to most of the questions!

1 Describe how the title of the poem relates to the rest of the poem.

2 How many lines are in the first stanza?

3 How many lines are in the second stanza?

4 Why do you think the poet chose to break the poem into two stanzas at the place where she did?

This poem includes repetition—words and phrases that appear a few times. For example, the phrase "and also that" appears several times (always at the beginning of a line).

5 Use a colored pencil to circle "and also that" each time it appears.

6 Find other words or phrases in the poem that repeat. For each word or phrase, choose a different color and then circle that word or phrase with that color each time it appears.

7 What is the effect of the repetition in the poem? In other words, how does it affect the sound or meaning of the poem?

8 Look at lines 7-9. What is special or particular about the way the poet chose to begin these lines?

9 In your own words, describe what the speaker is expressing gratitude for in lines 5-9.

10 In lines 1-2, the speaker says that she is grateful for a new pair of purple socks. How are these socks related to all of the other things that the speaker talks about in the poem? Explain.

11 In the last line of the poem, the speaker calls the socks "wonderful." What makes the socks so wonderful? Explain.

12 How would you describe the tone of this poem? Why?

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YOUR Gratitude Poem

Directions: After reading Jennifer Dignan's poem "Gratitude," complete the activity "Analyzing Poetry." Then follow the directions below to write your own "Gratitude" poem about what *you* are grateful for.

- 1** Dignan begins her poem by naming something simple that she is grateful for: a pair of purple socks. In the box, write something simple that you are grateful for.

something simple that you are grateful for

- 2** Dignan includes some details about the socks in the first two lines of her poem, noting that they are brand-new, purple, thick, warm, and soft. Brainstorm some words and phrases you could use to describe the thing you chose in Step 1.

descriptive words and phrases

- 3** Now think about how the thing you chose is connected to other things in your life that you are grateful for. Jot down ideas in response to the questions below and on the next page. If a certain question doesn't make sense with what you chose in Step 1, skip that question.

What made it possible for you to have this thing?

When and where do you use this thing?

Who do you interact with when you use this thing?

Jot down any other things that you are grateful for that connect to this thing.

4 Look back at what you brainstormed in Step 3. Highlight or star the ideas you like best and want to include in your poem. (If you think of anything to add while you are doing this, go ahead and add it!)

5 Now it's time to write the first draft of your poem. Use Dignan's "Gratitude" as a model to write your own "Gratitude" poem about what YOU are grateful for.

Write your poem on your own piece of paper. Be sure to

- start with the thing you chose in Step 1. Include a few details about it.
- have everything you name clearly connect to the thing you chose in Step 1.
- include repetition of words or phrases somewhere in the poem, the way Dignan does.
- end your poem by coming back to the thing you chose in Step 1, the way Dignan ends her poem by coming back to the socks.

6 After you finish your first draft, read it aloud, paying attention to the way it sounds. Does it flow like lyrics in a good song? If not, can you make the rhythm more pleasing? Sometimes a little change, like switching the placement of a few words, can make a big difference.

7 Optionally, decorate your finished poem with doodles like the ones that decorate Dignan's poem on page 32 of the March issue of *Scope*. (You could also use pictures cut out from magazines or printed from the internet.) Your doodles or pictures should reflect ideas and images from your poem.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Gratitude Contest

Write your own poem about gratitude, using Jennifer Dignan's poem as a model. Five winners will each get a \$25 Visa gift card.

Entries will be judged on:

⇒ creativity

⇒ clarity

⇒ strength of descriptive language

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name : _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this sheet with your typed short story and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
Or mail to: *Gratitude* Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 15, 2019!